

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-33 are pending in the application.

The Office has required a restriction pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §121. The following nine inventions have been identified:

Group I: Claims 2-10, drawn to compounds having a chromene core (and linking claims 1 and 11-26 that read on Claims 2-10), classified in class 549, subclass 398.

Group II: Claim 11, drawn to compounds having a quinoline core (and linking claims 1 and 12-26 that read on quinoline derivatives), classified in class 546, subclass 168.

Group III: Claims 1 and 12-26, drawn to compounds having a thiochromene core, classified in class 549, subclass 423.

Group IV: Claim 28 drawn to a method of treating COX-2 mediated inflammatory disorders, classified in class 514, various subclass 456 for chromenes, 312 for quinolines, and 432 for thiochromenes.

Group V: Claim 29 drawn to a method of treating COX-2 mediated neoplasia, classified in class 514, various subclass 456 for chromenes, 312 for quinolines, and 432 for thiochromenes.

Group VI: Claim 30 drawn to a method of treating COX-2 mediated ophthalmic disorders, classified in class 514, various subclass 456 for chromenes, 312 for quinolines, and 432 for thiochromenes.

Group VII: Claim 31 drawn to a method of treating COX-2 cardiovascular disorders, classified in class 514, various subclass 456 for chromenes, 312 for quinolines, and 432 for thiochromenes.

Group VIII: Claims 32-33 drawn to a method of treating COX-2 mediated schizophrenia, classified in class 514, various subclass 456 for chromenes, 312 for quinolines, and 432 for thiochromenes.

Group IX: Claim 27 drawn to a method of treating COX-2 mediated disorders not encompassed by Groups IV-IX classified in class 514, various subclass 456 for chromenes, 312 for quinolines, and 432 for thiochromenes.

Applicants request reconsideration of the Restriction. In order to expedite the allowance of the application Applicants propose the following alternative restriction groups.

Group A: Claims 9-26 directed to specific species of compounds and compositions.

Group B: Claims 27-33 directed to methods of treating COX-2 mediated disorders with compounds of claim 11.

If these alternative groups are acceptable to the Examiner, we elect Group A.

With respect to restriction between Groups A and B, Applicants elect to follow the procedure set forth in MPEP 821.04 and "Guidance on Treatment of Product and Process Claims in light of In re Ochiai, In re Brouwer and 35 U.S.C. §103(b)", 1184 Off. Gazette 86 (1996), which permits rejoinder of method claims upon the allowance of a claim to the composition of matter.

In the event that the alternative groups are not acceptable to the Examiner then Applicants elect group I without traverse. The election is without prejudice to Applicants' right to file divisional applications directed to the subject matter not contained therein.

With respect to the requirement for restriction between Groups I and IX, Applicants elect to follow the procedure set forth in MPEP 821.04 and "Guidance on Treatment of Product and Process Claims in light of In re Ochiai, In re Brouwer and 35

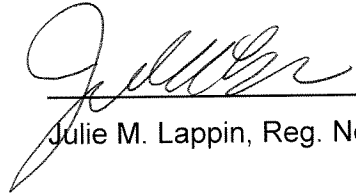
U.S.C. §103(b)", 1184 Off. Gazette 86 (1996), which permits rejoinder of method claims upon the allowance of a claim to the composition of matter.

Conclusion

It is believed that the claims are in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue.

If the Examiner believes a telephonic interview with Applicant's representative would aid in the prosecution of this application, he is cordially invited to contact Applicant's representative at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julie M. Lappin", is written over a horizontal line.

Julie M. Lappin, Reg. No. 46,612

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